

DEMOGRAPHIC OUTLOOK

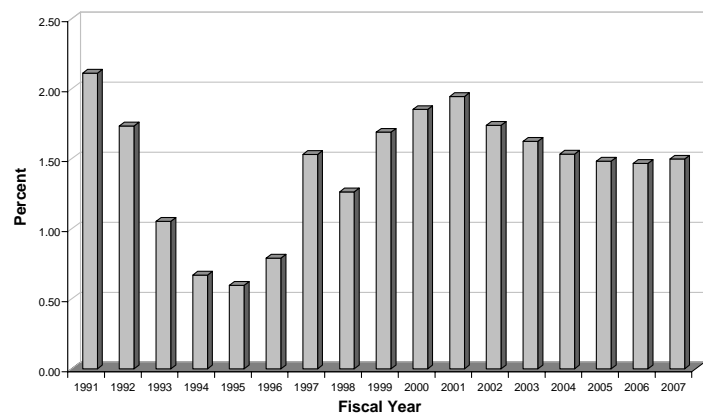
Population Overview

At over 35 million people as of mid-2002, California's population continues to experience strong growth. Despite a slowdown in the mid-1990s, the state has experienced population growth in excess of 1 percent per year since 1997 (see Figure DEM-1).

- ◆ The July 1, 2002, estimate of the population is 35,301,000. It is forecast to be 35,875,000 in 2003 and well over 36 million in 2004. This reflects a short-term annual growth rate of 1.6 percent.
- ◆ Through the next five years, the state will grow an average of 554,000 people each year. The state's growth in the first decade of this century is about equally attributable to natural increase (more babies being born than people dying) and net migration (people moving to California from other states and other countries, less those moving out)—53 percent and 47 percent, respectively.
- ◆ By July 2007, California will add nearly 3 million people to reach 38,070,000, a five-year growth rate of 7.8 percent. This is 1 percent less than the 8.8 percent overall population growth since 1997.
- ◆ Population growth rates vary significantly by age group. The state's total population growth of 7.8 percent contrasts with 5.8 percent growth in the pre-school age group and a 3.0 percent growth in the school age

FIGURE DEM-1

California's Annual Population Growth Rate



group. On the other hand, the college-going age group will grow 8.9 percent while the working and retirement-aged populations will grow in excess of 9 percent (see Figure DEM-2). The population in the working ages will increase by 1.7 million.

- ◆ In Fall 2001, K-12 public school enrollment exceeded 6 million. Starting in 2000 and continuing through the decade, school enrollment growth will be slower than that of the general population because the number of births in the state declined in the 1990s.

FIGURE DEM-2

California Population Five-Year Growth Rate by Age

